

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the title of the invention with the following:

**~~--OPTICALLY VARIABLE ELEMENT WITH VARYING SPACER HAVING A~~
VARIABLE DISTANCE-LAYER THICKNESS--**

On page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Phase application of International Application No. PCT/DE03/02196 filed July 2, 2003, which claims priority based on German Patent Application 10232245.7, filed July 17, 2002, which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-- .

On page 3, after line 14, insert the following:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- .

On page 8, after line 18, insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- .

On page 9, after line 6, insert the following:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION -- .